

LAENNECIA MAPIMIANA (ASTERACEAE: ASTEREAEE), A NEW
SPECIES FROM NORTHWESTERN MÉXICO

Guy L. Nesom

Department of Botany, University of Texas, Austin, Texas 78713 U.S.A.

ABSTRACT

A new species of *Laennecia*, *L. mapimiana*, is described from southeastern Chihuahua and adjacent Durango, México, in the region known as the Bolson de Mapimi. It is most closely similar and related to *L. coulteri* (A. Gray) Nesom and *L. sophiifolia* (Kunth) Nesom.

KEY WORDS: *Laennecia*, Asteraceae, Astereae, México

During the course of a recent study of the genus *Laennecia* (Nesom 1990), I reluctantly regarded a collection of unusual plants (four plants on one sheet) from southeastern Chihuahua, México, as depauperate individuals of *L. coulteri* (A. Gray) Nesom. The discovery of a nearly identical plant, however, collected by Josiah Gregg more than 100 years earlier from a nearby locality in adjacent Durango has convinced me that these plants represent a different and previously undescribed species.

Laennecia mapimiana Nesom, *sp. nov.* TYPE: MÉXICO. Chihuahua: 29.5 km N of the Camargo-Jiménez hwy on road to La Perla, 8 km S of Restaurante El Herradero, 27° 48' 30" N, 104° 50' W, 1275 m, alluvial bajada, fine-textured alluvium, mezquital and tobosa flat with *Prosopis glandulosa*, *Atriplex*, *Hilaria mutica*, 2 Apr 1973, M.C. Johnston, T.L. Wendt, & F. Chiang C. 10538-unicate (HOLOTYPE: TEX!).

Laenneciae coulteri (A. Gray) Nesom similis sed caulibus minoribus decumbenti-ascendentibusque, corollis disci brevioribus, et acheniis prominenter strigosis differt.

Annual herbs from a slender taproot. Stems numerous, arising from the base, decumbent-ascending, 7-10 cm long; stems and leaves stipitate glandular, also coarsely and relatively sparsely hispid-pilose with spreading, thick based, jointed hairs 0.2-0.8 mm long, not at all woolly. Leaves pinnatifid with (3-)4-7

pairs of linear lobes, sometimes slightly bipinnatifid, subclasping, oblong in outline, 1-2 cm long, 2-5 mm wide, unreduced in size upwards until immediately below the heads. Heads 5-7 mm wide, in loose but definite corymbs; phyllaries in 3-4 subequal series, sometimes basally fused into a ring of tissue, the outer with a green central portion, without an orange resinous midvein, the inner 3.0-3.5 mm long, with long attenuate, hyaline, purplish apices. Pistillate corollas numerous, eligulate. Hermaphroditic (disc) corollas tubular, 1.8-2.2 mm long, with erect, purplish, lobes 0.1-0.3 mm long. Achenes elliptic-oblong, 0.9-1.0 mm long, thinly but prominently strigose, not evidently glandular; pappus uniseriate, of 9-12 fragile, basally caducous bristles.

Additional collection examined: MÉXICO. Durango: Bolson de Mapimi, 15 Apr 1847, *J. Gregg s.n.* (MO, annotated in pencil by Asa Gray as *Conyza coronopifolia* [Kunth]).

The new species is similar to *Laennecia coulteri* and *L. sophiifolia* (Kunth) Nesom in its glandular, coarsely pubescent herbage, small achenes, and uniseriate pappus of relatively few bristles. The deeply lobed, sometimes slightly bipinnatifid leaves of *L. mapimiana* are more similar to those of *L. sophiifolia* but like *L. coulteri* in their subclasping bases. The heads of *L. mapimiana* are much smaller than those of *L. sophiifolia*. Both of the previously described species differ from *L. mapimiana* in their erect, much taller stems and both produce columnar to pyramidal capitulescences with more numerous heads, shorter disc corollas, and prominently glandular but otherwise glabrate achenes.

In contrast to the April flowering of *Laennecia mapimiana*, almost all of the specimens of both *L. coulteri* and *L. sophiifolia* have been collected from June through November. Even the few earlier flowering ones (April and May) in *L. coulteri*, however, are identical to the later flowering ones in their robust stature and basally erect stems. *Laennecia coulteri* is completely overlapping in geographic range with the new species, but *L. sophiifolia* in México is allopatric, being primarily restricted to more montane areas. The following couplet provides details of the differences between *L. mapimiana* and *L. coulteri*.

1. Stems numerous from the base, decumbent-ascending, 7-10 cm long; leaves 1-2 cm long; heads in a loose but distinct corymb; disc corollas 1.8-2.2 mm long, the lobes 0.1-0.3 mm long, erect; achenes prominently strigose, not evidently glandular *L. mapimiana*
- 1' Stems 1-few from the base, erect, 30-110 cm long; leaves 1.5-3.0 cm long; heads in a spikelike panicle, sometimes apically widened and nearly corymboid; disc corollas 2.3-3.0 mm long, the lobes 0.5-0.9 mm long, spreading to erect; achenes very sparsely strigose, with minute but prominent papillate glands *L. coulteri*

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I thank Dr. B.L. Turner and Dr. P.O. Karis for their comments and review of the manuscript and the staff of MO for a loan of specimens.

LITERATURE CITED

- Nesom, G.L. 1990. Taxonomy of the genus *Laennecia* (Asteraceae: Astereae).
Phytologia 68:205-228.